

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, CE

SUBJECT: ANURA BANDARANAIKE ASSIGNED ELECTION CONSTITUENCY

1. THE RULING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY (SLFP) MARCH 7 APPOINTED PM'S SON, ANURA BANDARANAIKE, AS CHIEF ORGANIZER (I.E., PARTY CANDIDATE) FOR THE UPCOUNTRY SEAT OF NUWARA ELIYA-MASKELIYA. THIS LARGE CONSTITUENCY WILL RETURN THREE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL STATE ASSEMBLY (NSA) AT THE ELECTION. SINCE THE SLFP HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL RUN ONLY ONE CANDIDATE WITHIN THE MULTIPLE CONSTITUENCY, ANURA IS VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF VICTORY.

2. ALTHOUGH THE PRESS DUTIFULLY REPORTED THAT DELEGATIONS OF BUDDHIST MONKS AND SLFP YOUTH LEAGUERS HAD MADE PRESENTATIONS TO THE PARTY URGING THAT IT NOMINATE ANURA IN NUWARA ELIYA-MASKELIYA, HIS ASSIGNMENT TO THAT CONSTITUENCY WAS A RESULT OF ATTEMPTS TO FIND HIM A SAFE SEAT. FINANCE MINISTER FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE HAS REFUSED TO BE SHIFTED OUT OF DOMPE CONSTITUENCY, ONE OF THE BANDARANAIKE ASSURED SEATS, TO MAKE WAY FOR ANURA. OTHER SEATS IN THE FAMILY HEARTLAND AREA ARE HELD BY OTHER MINISTERS OR ARE RUMORED TO BE RESERVED FOR OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS.

3. VERY FEW SLFP CHIEF ORGANIZERS HAVE YET BEEN

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APPOINTED, PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO DELAY THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THOSE SITTING MEMBERS WHO WILL NOT GET RENOMINATION. NUWARA ELIYA-MASKELIYA WAS NO PROBLEM FOR THE PARTY SINCE THEIR SITTING M.P. IN THE CURRENT MASKELIYA CONSTITUENCY WAS ONE OF THE FIVE M.P.'S WHO RESIGNED LAST MONTH FROM THE SLFP.

4. NUWARA ELIYA-MASKELIYA WAS SET UP AS A THREE-MEMBER DISTRICT BY THE RECENT DELIMITATION COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE MINORITY INDIAN TAMIL COMMUNITY, HEAVILY REPRESENTED IN THE AREA, WOULD BE ELECTED TO THE NEXT NSA. THIS IS LIKELY TO BE CEYLON WORKERS CONGRESS PRESIDENT S. THONDAMAN. THE OPPOSITION UNITED NATIONAL PARTY (UNP) HAS ALSO SO FAR APPOINTED ONLY ONE CANDIDATE, GAMINI DISSANAYAKE, WHO NOW REPRESENTS THE CURRENT SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCY OF NUWARA ELIYA IN THE CURRENT ASSEMBLY. AS THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE YOUNG LEADERS OF THE UNP, HE IS ALSO ASSURED OF ELECTION.
PERKINS

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